ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Two genes have been discovered that show single nucleotide polymorphisms that are differentially expressed in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) as compared to unaffected controls. These two genes, FLJ21425 and CSF1R (colony stimulating factor 1 receptor), are located close together on chromosome 5q33 which was known to have other IBD susceptibility genes. Moreover, expression of the CSF1R gene was shown in the intestinal epithelium. These two genes can be used to test for the presence of the allele associated with IBD for an early diagnosis of susceptibility to IBD. Early identification of subjects with susceptibility to IBD will enable early treatment with known methods. Additionally, the two genes can be used to target treatment, e.g., drugs known to affect CSF1R expression. Based on gene expression data, chromosomal location and biological function, the colony stimulating factor 1 receptor gene was shown to contribute to Crohn's disease susceptibility.